

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1. (Currently Amended) An item comprising:

[[ - ]] at least one product; and

[[ - ]] a flexible packaging film forming a sealed enclosure containing the at least one product and an amount of gas, the film having a precut line,

wherein the film has a layer of polypropylene defining an outer face of the item and a layer of polyethylene defining an inner face of the item,

wherein the precut line extends in said layer of polypropylene and does not pass through said layer of polyethylene, the precut line extending in a region in which said polypropylene layer defines an outer face of the item, and

wherein the amount of gas is chosen so that a consumer can grasp the item in such a way as to compress the item so as to increase the pressure of the gas causing the packaging film to be tensioned around the precut line to such a point that bending the item causes the enclosure to open by bursting with the film to rupturing instantaneously along the most part of the precut line thereby giving access to the at least one product contained in the opened enclosure.

2. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the item is arranged in such a way that rupture occurs only along the precut line.

3. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film has a joining line contiguous with the precut line and the item is arranged in such a way that rupture occurs along at least the entire part of the precut line that lies away from the joining line.

4. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the item has one longer dimension and the precut line extends in a plane perpendicular to this dimension.

5. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, containing at least two products, the precut line extending opposite a space between the two products or two of the products.

6. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 5, containing two products of approximately the same dimensions.

7. - 8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently amended) The item as claimed in claim [[7]] 1, wherein the precut line extends through the entire thickness of one of the layers said polypropylene layer.

10. - 12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the product is a food product.

14. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1 wherein the product is frozen.

15. - 19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the product is solid.

21. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least two products are solid.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently amended) An item comprising:  
[[-]] at least one product; and  
[[-]] a flexible packaging film forming a sealed enclosure containing the at least one product and an amount of gas, the film having a precut line,

wherein the film has a layer of polypropylene defining an outer face of the item and a layer of polyethylene defining an inner face of the item,

wherein the precut line extends in said layer of polypropylene and does not pass through said layer of polyethylene, the precut line extending in a region in which said polypropylene layer defines an outer face of the item,

wherein the item has one longer dimension and the precut line extends transverse to the longer dimension in a central section of the sealed enclosure;

wherein the item is arranged so that a consumer can grasp the item in both hands near opposite ends of the longer dimension of the item leaving said central section free, in the same way as he would grasp a stick with a view to bending or breaking the stick; and

wherein the amount of gas is chosen so that a consumer can grasp the item in both hands near said opposite ends leaving said central section free, in such a way as to compress the item so as to increase the pressure of the gas causing the packaging film to be tensioned around the precut line to such a point that bending the item causes the enclosure to open by bursting with the film rupturing instantaneously along the most part of the precut line thereby giving access to the at least one product contained in the opened enclosure.

24. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 23, containing at least two products, the precut line extending opposite a space between the two products or two of the products.

25. (Previously Presented) The item as claimed in claim 24, containing two products of approximately the same dimensions.

26. (New) The item as claimed in claim 23, wherein the product is a food product.

27. (New) The item as claimed in claim 23, wherein the product is frozen.

28. (New) The item as claimed in claim 23, wherein the product is solid.

29. (New) The item as claimed in claim 23, wherein the film has a joining line contiguous with the precut line and the item is arranged in such a way that rupture occurs along at least the entire part of the precut line that lies away from the joining line.

30. (New) The item as claimed in claim 23, wherein the layer of polypropylene and the layer of polyethylene are bonded together by a solvent-free lacquer.

31. (New) The item as claimed in claim 1, wherein the layer of polypropylene and the layer of polyethylene are bonded together by a solvent-free lacquer.